

Indonesia Takes Over West Irian From the U. N.



Associated Press Radlophoto

Indonesian troops arrive in Kotabaru, West Irian, to participate in formal takeover from U.N. administrators. The city, known as Hollandia, West New Guinea, when the territory was ruled by Dutch, was renamed by Indonesians with change in administration.

By The Associated Press

KOTABARU, West Irian, Wednesday, May 1—Indonesia's 13-year struggle to win the last segment of the former Dutch East Indies empire ended in success today. At 12:30 P.M. President Su-

karno's Government took control of the 150,000 square miles of jungles and mountains that once constituted Netherlands New Guinea. At that hour the United Nations, custodian of the territory since last Oct. 1, lowered its

flag in the public square of the capital for the last time. The transfer from United Nations to Indonesian administration made the territory's 700,000 Papuans citizens of

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INDONESIA BEGINS WEST IRIAN RULE

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Indonesia. In keeping with President Sukarno's policy of removing indications of Indonesia's former Dutch colonial masters, West New Guinea was renamed West Irian. Irian is Papuan for "hot land." Hollandia, the capital, became Kotabaru (New Town).

The United Nations noted that it was divesting itself of the first trust territory it had ever administered directly. The Secretary General, U Thant, in a message read at the ceremony, expressed confidence that Indonesia would observe its agreement to grant the Papuans a plebiscite on self-determination before 1969.

President Sukarno did not attend the ceremony, preferring to wait until Indonesia had complete authority before making his visit. He is expected here Saturday.

Foreign Minister Subandrio led a delegation of Indonesian Government officials to the ceremony. Dr. Djalal Abdoh, chief of the United Nations temporary executive authority, was the ranking United Nations representative.

The Netherlands Government did not take part. The Dutch flag was lowered for the last time Dec. 31, three months after the United Nations started administering the territory.

In a message to President Sukarno, President Kennedy praised the transfer as "a notable event both for Indonesia and the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes between nations."

Premier Khrushchev of the Soviet Union, in a similar message to President Sukarno, said the transfer was a victory in Indonesia's "just struggle" for the territory.

The addition of West New Guinea extends the Indonesian chain of islands to 3,000 miles along the Equator.

Indonesia claimed West New Guinea on geographical grounds. The Netherlands contended that the Papuans had no ties to the Malay Islands of Indonesia, but promised to solve the problem a year after Indonesia's independence.

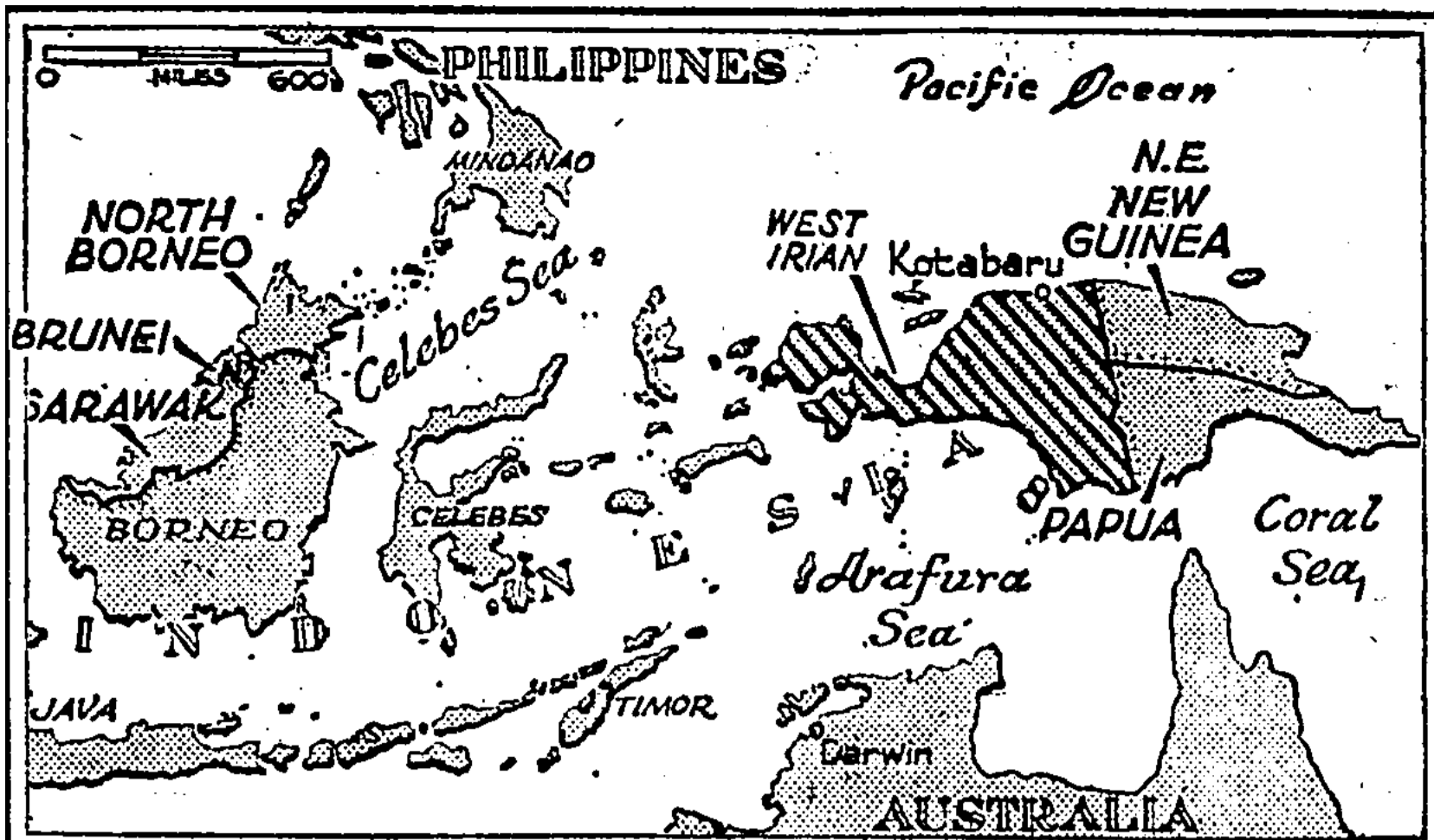
Issue Before United Nations

The issue was put before the United Nations and remained there for four years. In 1960, Indonesia broke diplomatic relations with the Netherlands and began an arms build-up.

The United States urged a settlement last year after Indonesia began dropping paratroopers into the territory.

The Dutch and the Indonesians reached an accord last August. The United Nations agreed to a minister the territory from last Oct. 1 until today.

The Indonesians say that they hope to raise living standards in the territory. But the officials say that they want to keep West New Guinea free of the economic problems the rest of the country faces. West New Guinea, for instance, will have its own currency, the rupiah.



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CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION: Indonesia has taken over from the United Nations the rule of West Irian, (diagonal shading), the former Netherlands colony.

The aim is to keep the money sound. Indonesia's rupiah is highly inflated.